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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Whittington W. Clement
Secretary of Transportation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Evaluation of I-81 Proposals Proceeds

Richmond, Va. - Two detailed proposals to improve I-81 in Virginia will be reviewed and evaluated by an advisory panel created by Secretary of Transportation Whitt Clement. The panel consists of 11 members, including representation from the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the academic community and the Virginia Transportation Safety Board.

The advisory panel's first meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the VDOT Salem District auditorium, 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, Virginia. The meeting will be open to the public and all written materials provided to the panel also will be available to the public.

The agenda for the first meeting includes the following:

- Overview of the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA) process.
- Overview of the PPTA and traditional procurement processes.
- Overview of the I-81 environmental process.
- Presentation on Fluor proposal.
- Presentation on STAR proposal.
- Distribution of written local government comments.
- Panel discussion.

The advisory panel is currently scheduled to have a second meeting in November and two concluding meetings in December.

"Our goal will be to make recommendations to the Secretary and the Commissioner by the end of the year," said Deputy Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer, Chairman of the panel.

The I-81 PPTA panel advisory committee consists of the following members:

Pierce Homer, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Dee Bowles, Transportation Safety Board
Dr. Jonathan Gifford, George Mason University
Fred Altizer, VDOT District Administrator
Helen Dragas, Commonwealth Transportation Board
Malcolm Kerley, VDOT Chief Engineer
Dr. Phillip Stone, Commonwealth Transportation Board
Barbara Reese, VDOT Chief Financial Officer
Onzlee Ware, Commonwealth Transportation Board
George Conner, DRPT Assistant Director
Jim Bowie, Commonwealth Transportation Board

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